

DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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TO THE  
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Report on the Health of the  
Dulverton Rural District during the year 1943.

My headings are those formulated by the Ministry of  
Health.



COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 1943.

CHAIRMAN:

Col. E.W.H. Amory, Hele Manor, Exbridge, Dulverton.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Mr. H. Williams, Great Ash, Winsford.

Col. E.R. Clayton.

Mr. T. Price.

Mr. William Perry.

Mr. A.V. Norman.

Mr. C.H. Abbot.

Maj.-Gen. A.W. Peck.

Rev. A.M. Hunt.

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Rev. P.W.P. Hancock.

Mr. C.F. Avery.

Mr. H. Govier.

Mr. J.S.W. Arthur.

Mr. J.F. Clatworthy.

Mr. Henry Williams.

Mr. C.J. Westcott.

DEPUTY CLERK TO THE COUNCIL:

H.C.L. CHAPMAN, Esq., Solicitor, Deputy Clerk.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) Part-time M.O.H.:

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.C.S., E.

District M.O. and Public Vaccinator: Dr. McKINNEY.

(b) Sanitary Inspector, Etc.:

H.A. JEWELL, A.R.San.I., M.Inst.S.E., M.S.I.A.



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

|                                                         |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Area in Acres.....                                      | 78,159  |
| Population, 1943 (estimated) .....                      | 5,350   |
| Inhabited Houses.....                                   | 1,240   |
| Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books..... | 1,248   |
| Number of Families or Separate Occupiers .....          | 1,248   |
| Rateable Value (Reduced).....                           | 210,073 |
| Sum Produced by 1d. Rate.....                           | 270     |

Social Conditions.- Good. The vast majority of the inhabitants are engaged in agricultural pursuits; they appear to be exceptionally healthy in consequence.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1943.

|                                                              | Total | M. | F. |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|------------------------|
| Live (Legitimate.....                                        | 59    | 33 | 26 | )                      |
| Births (Illegitimate.....                                    | 5     | 1  | 4  | ) Birth Rate.....12.1  |
| Still Births.....                                            | 2     | -- | 2  | Rate for 1,000         |
| Deaths.....                                                  | 69    | 33 | 36 | total Births 30.7      |
|                                                              |       |    |    | Crude Death Rate 12.8  |
| Number of women dying in                                     |       |    |    | ( From Sepsis.....NIL  |
| consequence of Childbirth.....                               | NIL   |    |    | ( Other Causes.....NIL |
| Rate per 1,000 Births.....                                   |       |    |    | NIL                    |
| Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-                |       |    |    |                        |
| All Infants per 1,000 Live Births.....                       |       |    |    | 47.0                   |
| 2 Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births.....   |       |    |    | 33.8                   |
| 1 Illegitimate Infant per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.... |       |    |    | 166.6                  |
| Deaths from Measles.....                                     |       |    |    | NIL                    |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough.....                              |       |    |    | NIL                    |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....                   |       |    |    | NIL                    |
| Deaths from Cancer.....                                      |       |    |    | 6                      |

The Statistics for England and Wales were- Rate per 1,000 of the Population:

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Births - Live Births.....        | 16.5 |
| Still Births.....                | .51  |
| Deaths.....                      | 12.1 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 Births..... | 49   |
| (under the age of one year)      |      |

The Maternal mortality for England and Wales are as follows:

|                             | Puerperal Sepsis | Others | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------|-------|
| Per 1,000 Total Births..... | .39              | 1.45   | 1.84  |



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
IN THE AREA.

1. Nursing in the Home.  
(a) Nursing is provided by the Somerset District Nursing Association  
There is no co-ordination with the Sanitary Authority.  
(b) Infectious Diseases. No Provision.
2. Midwives. None employed or subsidised by the local authority.  
Number of Midwives practising in the Area, 6.
3. Arrangements for the carrying out of Pathological and Bacteriological investigation, Analysis of Food Stuffs, etc., are made with the Somerset County Laboratories.
4. Hospitals. There are no Hospitals of any description within the Area.  
Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.- No change.
5. Maternity and Nursing Homes. No action has been taken under the Nursing Home Act of 1927.
6. Cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Pyrexia are investigated by the County Authority.
7. There is no provision for Unmarried Mothers, Homeless Children or Illegitimate Infants in the Area.
8. Institutional Provision for the Cure of Mental Defectives. None in the Area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

- (1.) To date nine of the largest Villages have main supply.

Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector in various Parishes during the year, and the results of these are set out in his Report.

2. Drainage.

Dulverton, Brushford and Exford have modern works.  
Winsford will be sewered as soon as circumstances permit.

3. Rivers and Streams Pollution. No action was considered necessary.

4. Closet Accommodation. This, in many parts of the Area, is still very primitive but is rapidly being improved.

5. Schools.

(1) Kingsbrompton, Dulverton and Brushford are the only Schools having flush lavatories. Exton, however, has a piped water supply. There is still room for a great deal of improvement in the sanitary arrangements to the remainder and the matter has been taken up with the Authorities concerned.

(2) Public Cleansing. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(4) Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action has been required up to the present.

HOUSING.

No building has taken place during the past year.

The examination of Milk for tubercle bacilli is carried out at the County Laboratory.

Meat and Other Foods. - (See Sanitary Inspector's Report)



Adulteration. - The Council are not a Local Authority for enforcing the Food and Drugs (Adulteration Act), 1928. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods are submitted to the County Council Laboratory at Taunton.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During 1943 Dulverton had cases of notifiable infectious diseases other than Tuberculosis. Vaccinations. A number of vaccinations were carried out by the M.O.H. during 1943.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) :      |                       |                            |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Small Pox .....                                     | Total Cases notified. | Cases admitted to hospital | Deaths.  |
| Scarlet Fever.....                                  | 4                     | 4                          | -        |
| Diphtheria.....                                     | -                     | -                          | -        |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)               | -                     | -                          | -        |
| Puerperal Pyrexia.....                              | -                     | -                          | -        |
| Measles.....                                        | 59                    | -                          | -        |
| Pneumonia.....                                      | 31                    | 6                          | 2        |
| Other Diseases notifiable Locally, e.g. Chicken Pox | 1                     | -                          | -        |
| Erysipelas.....                                     | -                     | -                          | -        |
| Pneumonia. - Of the cases of the above :            |                       |                            |          |
| Under one year.....                                 |                       | 1 case                     |          |
| 1 year to 2 .....                                   |                       | 1 case                     |          |
| 2 years to 3 .....                                  |                       | - case                     |          |
| 4 years to 5 .....                                  |                       | 1 case                     |          |
| 5 years to 10.....                                  |                       | 8 cases                    |          |
| 10 years to 15.....                                 |                       | 1 case                     |          |
| 15 years to 20.....                                 |                       | 3 cases                    |          |
| 20 years to 35.....                                 |                       | 6 cases                    |          |
| 35 years to 45.....                                 |                       | 6 cases                    |          |
| 45 years to 65.....                                 |                       | 2 cases                    |          |
| Over 65 years .....                                 |                       | 2 cases                    |          |
|                                                     |                       | Total                      | 31 cases |

|                                        |                |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|
| MEASLES. - Of the cases of the above : |                |
| Under one year.....                    | 3 cases        |
| 1 year to 2.....                       | 1 case         |
| 2 years to 3.....                      | 5 cases        |
| 3 years to 4.....                      | 3 cases        |
| 4 years to 5 .....                     | 11 cases       |
| 5 years to 10.....                     | 24 cases       |
| 10 years to 15.....                    | 5 cases        |
| 15 years to 20.....                    | - cases        |
| 20 years to 35.....                    | 1 case         |
| 35 years to 45.....                    | 2 cases        |
| 45 years to 65.....                    | 2 cases        |
| Over 65 years.....                     | 2 cases        |
|                                        | Total 59 cases |

SCALDS. As elsewhere this condition became very prevalent consequent upon evacuation - Cases - Mostly children, were efficiently dealt with at the Dulverton Sick Bay. This had the effect of keeping this disease under and conditions had greatly improved before the end of the year.

CANCER. - There were six deaths from this disease in 1943. (b) Prevention of Blindness. No action was taken.



TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

| Age Periods | New Cases |    |               |    | Deaths    |               |
|-------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|---------------|
|             | Pulmonary |    | Non-Pulmonary |    | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary |
|             | M.        | F. | M.            | F. | M.        | F.            |
| 0           |           |    |               |    |           |               |
| 1           |           |    |               | 1  |           |               |
| 5           |           |    |               |    |           |               |
| 10          |           |    |               |    |           |               |
| 15          |           |    |               |    |           |               |
| 20          |           |    |               |    |           |               |
| 25          |           | 1  |               |    |           |               |
| 35          |           | 1  |               |    |           |               |
| 45          | 1         |    |               |    |           |               |
| 55          |           |    |               |    |           | 1             |
| 65          |           |    |               |    |           |               |
| & Upwards   |           |    |               |    |           |               |
| Totals      | 1         | 2  | 0             | 1  | 0         | 1             |

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. - No action taken.  
Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62). - No action taken.

My thanks are due to Mr. H.A. Jewell for his assistance in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.



1948.  
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dulverton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the period from the 1st, January to the 31st, December (inclusive), 1948, in accordance with Article 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1928.

1. Owing to war conditions many additional duties have had to be carried out but this has not in my way prejudiced the Public Health side of my Council's work as in common with many other Rural Districts the hours of work had to be long and continuous.

2. NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Defective Cess Pits.....             | 3          |
| Offensive Accumulation.....          | 4          |
| Fouled Watercourses .....            | 3          |
| Dirty Premises.....                  | 8          |
| Bad or Suspected Water Supply.....   | 19         |
| Overcrowding.....                    | 5          |
| Animals kept in Unfit Places.....    | 3          |
| Defective Sanitary Conveniences..... | 6          |
| Housing Complaints.....              | 51         |
| Miscellaneous.....                   | 63         |
| Sewage and Drainage.....             | 33         |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>                    | <b>203</b> |

Other than cowsheds.

In addition to those mentioned under Housing Defects.

239 visits were made in connection with these, and all were remedied without the necessity of issuing Statutory Notices.

~~xxxxxx~~. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

L. Meat. All slaughterhouses in the district are now closed, slaughtering being done in the Central Abattoir at Minchhead, but regular inspections are made of meat arriving at the Butchers' shops.

2. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Routine visits.....          | 200 |
| Occasional Slaughtering..... | 78  |

MEAT UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

|               | Whole Carcass | Fore quarter | Hind quarter | Head     | Livers    | Lungs    | Hearts   | Spleens  |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bovines.      | -             | 2            | 3            | -        | 3         | 1        | -        | -        |
| Calves.       | -             | -            | -            | -        | -         | -        | -        | -        |
| Pigs.         | -             | -            | -            | -        | 2         | -        | -        | -        |
| Sheep.        | 3             | -            | -            | -        | 8         | -        | -        | -        |
| <b>TOTAL.</b> | <b>3</b>      | <b>2</b>     | <b>3</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> |

MILK. - Details of Inspections for the past year are set out as follows:

|                                        |            |
|----------------------------------------|------------|
| Cowsheds and Dairy visits.....         | 120        |
| Attention was drawn to the following:- |            |
| Defective Floors.....                  | 15         |
| Defective Drainage.....                | 26         |
| Limewashing.....                       | 31         |
| Dirty Floors.....                      | 60         |
| Fouled Approach Yards.....             | 50         |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>                      | <b>252</b> |

Water supplies to most of the cowsheds constitute a problem, especially as the occupier and not the owner is responsible for improvements. Until the Milk and Dairys Orders are amended to make all improvements in this connection the duty of the Landlord I am afraid the progress will be slow in this and other work in connection with cowsheds, but at the same time every effort is being made by my Council to carry out their duties under the Act.

There are two Certified T.T. and one Accredited Dairy in the District and the standard of the samples obtained from them have been very high. Samples for Tubercle Bacilli were taken at regular intervals from different parts of the District, and all were reported free from infection.



|                                              |     |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| 12 Samples taken for Graded Milk             |     |
| 20 Samples taken for T.B.                    |     |
| Number of Producers.....                     | 123 |
| Number of Distributors on the Register       |     |
| divided as follows:-                         |     |
| (a) Distributors.....                        | 0   |
| (b) Distributors who are also Producers..... | 123 |

WATER SUPPLY.

With a succession of very dry winters water supplies have been below average , but except for the outlying cottages dependant on shallow wells no great difficulty has been experienced. The water generally in this district is very soft, with a P.H. value of about 6.5 so it is necessary to renew service pipes frequently owing to excessive corrosion. All mains in recent years have been laid in asbestos which eliminates any question of corrosion. All water schemes under the control of the Council are attended to at least once a week.

A scheme for the improvement of the Water Supply to the Village of Exford is in course of preparation by my Council. At present this supply is privately owned, but negotiations are completed whereby the Trustees will hand over to the R.D.C., it is hoped, free from any debt. Samples taken from all mains supplies were found to be satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation.- The provision of improved Sanitary Conveniences continues to be enforced through the inspections carried out of working class properties.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE:- The value of salvage collected over the past year has equalled a three penny rate.

Disposals by incineration at the Dulverton Works. All tins are baled by a power press and there is a good market for them.

The Refuse Lorry is not kept solely for this work, and when not so employed does other work in connection with this Department.

HOUSING. Owing to the shortage of labour and material very little constructional work has been possible but every effort has been made to keep ordinary repairs done. With a large influx of evacuees it was necessary to use cottages which had already been condemned and these were to the best of our ability put into habitable repairs by the Councils workmen.

Byc Laws Relating to Housing, Etc..

There is now a Town Planning Scheme in course of preparation for the Area.

The Ribbon Development Act is controlled by the County Council.

Sewerage Disposal and Drainage.

Main works are installed at Dulverton, Brushford and Exford and it is hoped in the future to submit schemes for Winsford, Withypool and Brompton Regis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health inquiries into all reported cases of Infectious Diseases were at once carried out:-

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Number of Premises Visited.....  | 8 |
| Number of Rooms Disinfected..... | 3 |

PETROLEUM ACTS.

|                                                 |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Petroleum Licences granted during the year..... | 26          |
| Amount collected in fees.....                   | £16. 15. 0. |

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS FOR THE YEAR.

|                                                         |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Housing Inspections.....                                | 226  |
| Housing Reinspections.....                              | 320  |
| Inspection of Meat and other Foods.....                 | 220  |
| Cowsheds and Dairies.....                               | 97   |
| Factories and Workshops.....                            | 16   |
| Infectious Diseases.....                                | 9    |
| c Visits in connection with Nuisances and Complaints... | 33   |
| Visits in connection with Rats and Mice.....            | 53   |
| Miscellaneous Visits:                                   |      |
| Milk Sampling, Water Sampling, Etc.....                 | 50   |
| Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal, Etc.....            | 226  |
| Total Calls                                             | 1250 |



to express my thanks to the Chairman,  
given me during the past year, also to the Clerk and the staff for  
their co-operation in the work of this Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HORACE A. JEWELL,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor,

Dulverton,

Somerset.

January, 1944.

CONCLUSION

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